

Policy Forum on Development Factsheet

How it all started....

The Policy Forum on Development (PFD) was established by the European Commission in November 2013. It followed the Structured Dialogue, a process involving more than 700 civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs) with the aim to improve the effectiveness of EU development cooperation. Maintaining an open and regular dialogue with civil society is one of the principles stated in the Lisbon Treaty with a view to ensuring consistency and transparency of EU policies. The idea was to create a trust-building mechanism and to provide a permanent space for multi-stakeholder dialogue on development policies. Since the inception of the PFD, the international community has agreed to the 2030 Agenda and the EU has issued a new European Consensus on Development. Both documents underline the need for and strength of working in partnership, upholding the principles of aid effectiveness, recognising both civil society and associations of local authorities as essential development actors to achieve our shared development goals.

How does the PFD work today?

The PFD is co-chaired by the Director General of the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development at the European Commission together with one civil society and one local government representative. PFD members include: associations of local authorities and civil society organisations (NGOs, trade unions, cooperatives, and professional and business associations) at the global and European Union level as well as from the four main EU cooperation areas (see map below); representatives of EU Member States; and EU institutions (the European Commission; European Parliament, European External Action Service; European Economic and Social Committee, European Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank). The members debate development issues and how the EU is responding to them. Discussions have included: progress toward the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the fight against inequalities, climate change, poverty reduction, building resilience and how to create and preserve an enabling environment for our partners.



The PFD members meet at least twice a year – one global meeting takes place in Brussels and a regional meeting outside the European Union.

The PFD is conceived as a continuous dialogue amongst members to bring the realities on the ground to the policymakers. Members collect positions from their own constituents.



These are discussed during the sessions and the results are reported back. In addition, PFD members from EU institutions feed the discussions into their own work and future policy development. This knowledge is also collected in joint position papers, conclusions and recommendations, and other PFD research initiatives on a regular basis.

The PFD's added value is undoubtedly the vast knowledge, reach and complementarities of its different members. Through the exchanges, the members are able to engage in collective learning; influence policy outcomes; share, develop and exchange good practices; reach out to their own constituencies; and network with other organisations worldwide.

Membership

The PFD ensures a balanced representation of all regions and categories of actors. The PFD Charter, adopted by all members, sets the objectives and mandates and defines the membership criteria of the PFD. Mandates last for 2 years but can be prolonged and the selection process is inclusive, transparent and flexible.

In 2019, PFD membership will be expanded to include all of the European Commission's Framework Partnership Agreement signatories, increasing the membership of local authorities, as well as diaspora and foundation representatives. This will strengthen the forum by enriching its representation and contributions.

PFD Membership requirements
<p>A CSO or LA regional or global network working on international cooperation and development, which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered in the EU Transparency Register • Accountable to their constituents and capable of collecting their viewpoints • Representative of a wide membership • Experienced in policy areas relevant to the PFD and implementation of current EU policies • Able to disseminate PFD communications via established feedback mechanisms

The Task Team

The task team is the working body responsible for preparing meeting agendas, monitoring progress, ensuring communication flows and promoting collective ownership of the PFD. A small group of 15 PFD members nominated from each region plus representatives of the EC make up the Task Team. Task team members are appointed for a two-year renewable mandate and they usually meet four times a year.

Website and group for further information: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/policy-forum-development>